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A flurry of economic reports were released last week, largely because of the holiday week between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Overshadowing them all was the print reading of third-quarter gross domestic product (GDP), which rose to 3.5% from 3.2%, making for the best quarterly growth rate in two years. This was due in large part to rise in consumer spending, a figure backed up by the Personal Income and Outlays report that indicated steady consumer spending in November, despite income dropping. Also, both existing- and new-home sales again were solid, jobless claims rose (but remained at low levels) and consumer sentiment remained robust.

The reports in general lent support the Federal Reserve's decision to raise the target federal funds rate earlier in the month.

The short end of the London interbank offered rate (Libor) curve was essentially unchanged last week from the week before, with 1-month Libor jumping two basis points to 0.76% , 3-month Libor remaining at 1.00% and 6-month Libor steady at 1.32.